

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of providing a portable information agent comprising: presenting a graphical representation of a portable information agent as part of a first composition accessed by an initial application, said portable information agent comprising a software object, having state, and having one or more possible external connections, said first composition providing a first execution context for said portable information agent;

allowing relocation of said portable information agent to a location outside of said initial application; and

thereafter moving said portable information agent to said outside location such that said portable information agent becomes part of a second composition, said second composition providing a second execution context for said portable information agent in which said state of said portable information agent is preserved, **wherein said initial application comprises a web browser and said first composition is part of a web page.**

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said portable information agent, once relocated, persists and maintains said state after termination of said initial application.

Claim 3 (cancelled).

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said initial application comprises an email client and said first composition is part of an email message.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said initial application comprises a desktop provided by an operating system.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said relocation is

repeatable from a current location to any number of additional platforms.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5 wherein said desktop provided by an operating system comprises an interface of a platform, said platform selected from the group consisting of: a Windows PC, a Macintosh PC, a unix-type operating system, a set-top box, a wireless logic appliance, an internet appliance, a personal digital assistant, or another device connected to a network.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said new location is selected from the group consisting of: a desktop provided by an operating system, a different application, and a different computer platform with a different operating system.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said portable information agent includes one or more user interface components and wherein said interface components are preserved after a relocation.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said portable information agent includes one or more connections to one or more external entities and wherein said connections are preserved after a relocation.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said allowing relocation comprises allowing a user to select and drag said graphical representation.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said allowing relocation comprises allowing a user to discontinuously select said graphical representation and place said graphical representation in a new location.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said allowing relocation comprises allowing said graphical representation to move to a new location without an action by a user.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein said one or more external entities are selected from the group consisting of: web servers, other applications, background processes, and other remote processes.

15. (Currently amended) A method of interacting with a portable information agent comprising:

providing a portable information agent object as part of a first composition accessed by an initial application, said portable information agent object comprising a software object, said first composition providing a first execution context for said portable information object;

allowing a user to select said portable information agent object and relocate said portable information agent object outside of said initial application;

upon detecting said relocating, determining if sufficient infrastructure logic exists to allow said **portable information agent** object to operate in a new location;

if said determining indicates that sufficient infrastructure does not exist, contacting an agent server to request necessary infrastructure logic;

downloading and installing necessary infrastructure logic; and

thereafter moving said portable information agent object to said new location such that said portable information agent object becomes part of a second composition that provides a second execution context for said portable information agent object; **wherein said initial application comprises a web browser and said first composition comprises a web page.**

Claim 16 (cancelled).

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15 wherein said new location is selected from the group consisting of: a desktop provided by an operating system, a different application, and a different computer platform with a different operating system.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15 wherein said portable information agent **object** is associated with a graphic object constructed from presentation primitives that allow user interaction with said graphic object.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15 wherein said portable information agent object includes logic allowing communication with a data server for tracking user interaction.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19 wherein said portable information agent object and said infrastructure allow communication with a data server for tracking user interaction after said portable information agent object has been moved to a new location.